

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

Claims 1-23: (Canceled).

24. (New) A liquid developer for developing a latent image on a latent image carrier, comprising:

colored particles comprising at least a resin and a colored substance, wherein the concentration of the colored particles in the liquid developer is 5 wt% to 40 wt%, wherein the colored particles are capable of being deposited on a latent image formed on an image carrier to develop the latent image;

a liquid having a viscosity of 10 to 1,000 mPa·S and serving as a dispersant for the colored particles;

wherein has a polarity opposite to the polarity of the colored particles is contained in the liquid in a ratio of 0.05 parts by weight to 20 parts by weight to 1 part by weight of the colored particles as a dispersion-facilitating substance for facilitating dispersion of the colored particles in the liquid.

25. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has, on its surface, a polar group having a polarity opposite to the polarity of the colored particles.

26. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 25, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has at least one of a carboxyl group and a hydroxyl group as the polar group.

27. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has an average molecular weight of 1,000 or more.

28. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance is one of methyl methacrylate (acryl) and a compound mainly composed of methyl methacrylate (acryl).

29. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 28, wherein the compound is a graft copolymer.

30. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 29, wherein the liquid is silicone oil and the graft copolymer has a graft portion containing silicone.

31. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 29, wherein the graft copolymer has an average molecular weight of 500 to 10,000.

32. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the liquid is an aprotic liquid.

33. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 32, wherein the liquid has an electric resistance of $1 \times 10^{12} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ or more, a surface tension of 30 dyne/cm or less, and a boiling point of 100°C or more.

34. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 33, wherein the liquid is a silicone liquid that contains at least one of phenylmethyl siloxane, dimethyl polysiloxane, and polydimethyl cyclosiloxane.

35. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance is of a granular form.

36. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 35, wherein the dispersion-facilitating substance has an average particle size of 0.001 to 1 μm .

37. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the colored particles have a volume average particle size of 0.1 to 6.0 μm .

38. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the colored particles have, on their surface, the dispersion-facilitating substance, a basic group, and an affinity group that provides an affinity to the liquid.

39. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 38, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having an acidic group.

40. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 38, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a basic group.

41. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 38, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a metal.

42. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the colored particles have, on their surface, the dispersion-facilitating substance, an acidic group, and an affinity group that provides an affinity to the liquid.

43. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 42, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having an acidic group.

44. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 42, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a basic group.

45. (New) A liquid developer as claimed in claim 42, wherein the liquid contains, in addition to the colored particles, a charge control agent having compatibility to the liquid and having a metal.

46. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a latent-image bearing member; and
developing means for developing a latent image on a surface of the latent image carrier by applying a liquid developer of Claim 24 to the latent-image.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 24-46 are supported by the specification at pages 5-96 and by the original claims. No new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

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